

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:31/11

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wheaton School

and/or common Brick School

2. Location

street & number 1920 University Boulevard ☐ not for publicationcity, town Wheaton Silver Spring ☐ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Clarence E. and R. L. Palmer % Earl Gratzel

street & number 1920 University Blvd. Boulevard telephone no.: (301) 649-4016

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20902

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 4814

street & number folio 876

city, town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title M-NCPPC

date 1976 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Park Historian

city, town Rockville state MD

7. Description

Survey No. M:31/II

Condition
☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one
☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one
☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This former schoolhouse appears to be a brick, 1 and 1/2 story cottage with a dormer set into a hip roof of patterned tin, surrounded by magnificent maples. However the east and west facades give away its origins. Definitely schoolhouse in appearance are the matching four oversized windows, betraying the building as an old schoolhouse.

* * * *

This 1 and 1/2 story, common bond brick house faces north on University Boulevard. The patterned tin shingled hip roof has a 2 bay dormer with plain surrounds. A porch with a side entrance has white half posts on a brick half wall and encloses the entrance part of this facade which is stucco. The stucco is painted brick red, and also covers the dormer. The porch has narrow floor boards and a tongue and groove ceiling. The 5 windows on this facade are 4 over 1, doublehung.

The east and west facades match with 4 large windows, 6 over 6, doublehung, and one louvered gable each. Aluminum storm windows are added.

The south facade has an addition with an asbestos shingled, shed roof, cedar shake exterior walls and aluminum sashed windows. Windows in the original brick walls are 4 over 1, double hung, matching those on the north facade. Two brick, corbelled chimneys are on this facade, one an inside end chimney and one an outside end chimney.

The interior was not photographed by owner's request. The front door is paneled, and has 4 central lights and original door hardware; an aluminum storm door was added. The rooms have high ceilings with the original plastered walls and ceilings, random width oak floors, wide baseboards, beaded trim surrounds at the arched opening between the 2 parts of the double parlor. A wide, central hall with a double parlor on the west side ends in a closet. An enclosed staircase at the west, rear of the hall leads upstairs to the storage area. The former east schoolroom is divided by a partition into two bedrooms.

8. Significance

Survey No. 431/11

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1903

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building has local, architectural significance as a former part of the county public school system.

In 1891 the Montgomery County Board of School Commissioners bought 80 square perches of unimproved land from George and Kate Cissel. The parcel was surveyed from Hermitage, a larger tract.

A white frame schoolhouse was built. In 1903 the building burned and was replaced by this structure, according to Mary Gratzer, the owner, whose grandmother, Catherine Reid, deceased, attended this school at the time of the fire and the reconstruction. The four rooms were used as two classrooms, an office and a kitchen. Reid participated in planting maple trees on Arbor Day. These same trees are now magnificent, mature specimens in excellent condition.

In 1927 the Board of School Commissioners sold the property, and the schoolhouse has been a residence since then. The present owners enjoy the high ceiling, large rooms and wood paneling, and knowing that an ancestor went to school there and planted the trees which they protect and maintain. From the street the house appears to be an attractive home, but the bank of oversize, double hung windows on both the east and west facades tell its origins.

Between the school board and the Gratzers, owners included Thomas W. Perry (May 18, 1927, 444/66); Lance E. Tompkins (October 10, 1934, 578/472); John Milton Collins Jr. (October 24, 1944); Clarence E. Palmer (July 19, 1976, 4814/874); Earl and Mary Gratzer (July 22, 1976).

Footnote

1. Interview with Mary Gratzer, September 25, 1985.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M. 31/II

Montgomery County Land Records and Tax Assessment Records
Interview with Mary Catherine Gratzner, owner

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 20576 feet

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret M. Colemanorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate October 27, 1985

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town _____

state _____

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Wheaton Brick Schoolhouse

Addendum

November 19, 1985

Significance

The original board minutes for the Montgomery County Board of School Commissioners, June 12, 1891, record a sum of \$500 established for a new schoolhouse at Wheaton. No further date could be found to pinpoint the date of rebuilding the brick building.

The Wheaton school commissioners bought a second lot adjacent to this one, and built a one room school for black children. Land located on Bladensburg Road (University Boulevard) was purchased from George B. and Kate S. Cissell, the same grantors for the white schoolhouse lot on Bladensburg Road.

On September 20, 1898, "a number of colored people appeared to ask for a school" at Wheaton, according to the original board minutes. A sum of \$450 was designated for this cause on May 16, 1899.

The presence of a black school directly adjacent to a white one appears unusual. Dr. Webster Sewell whose grandfather owned the land next to the black school, reported no problems from this arrangement. The black and the white children walked by each others' schools. "They were entirely separated," he said, but there were "no problems." He added that his generation was used to segregation, and accepted the situation.

This school was apparently called Wheaton Colored School. It was torn down, but the fieldstone foundation remains.

Bibliography

Interview: Nina Honemond Clark; Dr. Webster Sewell
Records of the Proceedings of the Board of School Commissioners Of Montgomery County, 1860 to 1900; boxed summaries of these minutes on 5 x 7 cards; Montgomery County Public Schools Records Center, Margaret Fitzhugh, director, Stonestreet, Rockville, MD.

JEWELL, E. GUY: SCHOOLS THAT WERE.

1608245202

M#31-11

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Brick School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

University Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Wheaton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

M:31-11

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a low, one-story brick structure that has been converted to a private residence. The main (north) facade has a central door flanked by uneven bays, marked by one large window on the east and two small windows on the west. The wide, low hip roof rises to the center of the building, where it breaks into a A-roof at the gable-ends, just below the ridge. A short section of the roof extends in a continuous slope to cover the front entrance porch. The entire roof is covered with stamped, patterned tin.

M:31-11

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This was once the public school for the then-rural Wheaton area. It is certainly one of the few old buildings left in this now heavily-developed locale. The date of construction is not certain, but it appears to have been built ca. 1900. A school here is shown on Hopkins' Atlas of 1894.

M:31-11

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Conversation with McDonald family of nearby Gilmore Drive; attended school here as girls in the early 1900's. (11/17/75.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

1/23/76

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle



NAME Mⁱ#31-11 BRICK SCHOOL

LOCATION UNIVERSITY BLVD. WHEATON, MD

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 1/23/76 MDWYER